



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION
Western Federal
Lands Highway
Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 08
June 23, 2006



MEDICINE LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

MEDICINE LAKE HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

MONTANA REFUGE ROAD PROJECT MELA 900(1)

With 355 cubic yards now in place the parking lot is near 50% completion. These first yards have involved some of the hardest and toughest work as it included the radii and driveways. It's been a real workout for the seven concrete finishers, along with the local guys with some days starting out at 5:30 am and finishing out close to 7:30 pm. That may not seem a long day to some, but try moving concrete for all those hours.

With the warm temperatures and those windy days, the concrete, even with curing compound is setting too fast. To control cracking, saw cuts are made in the new concrete the next day. This first series of cuts allows controlled cracking. These are only preliminary cuts and will be followed up with another saw cut 3/8-inch wide starting July 5th. The widened saw cuts are then cleaned, a foam rope is inserted and sealant injected into the cut. The widened cuts once sealed will allow the concrete slabs to adjust for temperature expansion in the summer heat and shrinkage in the winter cold. The company coming in to accomplish the cutting and sealing is from Billings.

Next week the crew will place concrete on the main parking area on the south side of headquarters building. This will take all of next week and once done will complete the concrete portion of the contract.

With work on the main parking area next week traffic will once again be routed around to the back entrance. So be sure to watch for the detour signs.

Federal Highway Administration
Chuck Mikkola, Project Engineer
(406) 789-2305 ext. 105

RB Constructors, LLC
Bert Truxal, Pres; Richard Wilson Foreman
208-656-9404

TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, SEND YOUR REQUEST TO charles.mikkola@fhwa.dot.gov
